GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:684
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
INSTALLATION OF TELECOM TOWERS
Budholiya Shri Rajnarayan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to install telecommunications towers in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be sanctioned by the Government in this regard during the current financial year?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme has been launched by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for provision of subsidy support for setting up and managing 7,871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) in 500 districts spread over 27 States for provision of mobile services in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1450 crore has been allocated under Revised Estimates (RE) for the current financial year for various activities undertaken by USOF.However,since no claims are likely to be received for this activity in the current financial year,no amount is likely to be disbursed on this account.